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## 20. DIFFERENCE IN BREEDING COLORATION IN *CALOTES VERSICOLOR* OF THE SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN ARAVALLIS IN RAJASTHAN

(With one text-figure)

During the breeding season, the male *Calotes versicolor* acquires a brilliant crimson or scarlet colour on the forehead and shoulder parts of the body towards dorsal and ventral sides, and black patches upon the neck, cheeks and throat (THE FAUNA OF BRITISH INDIA, Vol. 11, Smith 1935). During my field studies in the Aravalli hills, Rajasthan, I noticed a remarkable difference in the black patches of male *Calotes versicolor* at the northern and southern ends of the Aravalli range. Towards the extreme southern end in Udaipur district (23° 46' to 26° 2' N; 73° to 74° 35' E), in Phulwari Wildlife Sanctuary, forest areas of Jhadol, Ogha, Gogunda, Kotra, Khairwara and Udaipur Forest Ranges and the adjoining forests, individuals have black patches on their neck region, which just touch the swollen cheeks and at a distance from the tympanum (Fig. 1a). On the other hand, individuals confined to Nahargarh (26° 55'-27° 15' N; 75° 45'-76° E) and Jamwa Ramgarh Wildlife Sanctuaries, nearly 25 km away from

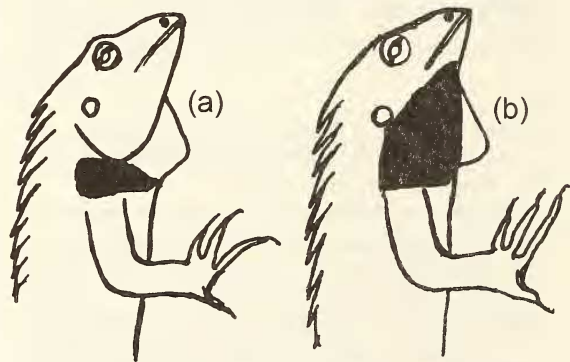


Fig. 1: (a) Black patch on the neck of Udaipur specimen. (b) Black patch on the neck of Jaipur specimen

Nahargarh towards the eastern side (27° 0'-27° 15' N and 76°-76° 15' E), in Jaipur district, towards northern Aravalli, have broader black patches, which extend to the swollen cheeks. Tapering black patches extend forward and terminate at the base of the lower jaw, below the

eyes. On the posterior, each patch touches the tympanum on both lateral sides (Fig. 1b).

Localities of Udaipur zone and Jaipur zone are nearly 500 km apart. The two ends of the Aravalli show different environmental conditions and forest types. The southern end, clad with broad-leaved deciduous forests receives higher rainfall (650-800 mm), while the northern end

has dry deciduous and scrub forests and receives relatively low rainfall (400-600 mm).

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## 21. OCCURRENCE OF PAINTED KALOULA *KALOULA TAPROBANICA* (FAMILY MICROHYLIDAE) AT POINT CALIMERE, TAMIL NADU

On January 28, 2000, we heard frog calls on the outskirts of Kodikkadu village, near Point Calimere (10° 18' N and 79° 51' E), Tamil Nadu. The calls were coming from two temporary rainwater pools in the grassland, near some thorny bushes. The pools were separated by a bund with *Thespesia populnea* trees. Some of the roots of these trees were exposed, probably due to rain. While walking under these trees we saw a frog near one of the exposed roots, we caught and identified the species as the painted kaloula *Kaloula taprobanica*. When released on loose sand, it tried to sink into the soil, dislodging it by the sideways movements of its hind legs as described by Rajasingh 1972 (*JBNHS* 69(1): 193). On being handled, it inflated its body like a toad.

In the Bombay Natural History Society's collection, there are two specimens collected by Dr. P.J. Sanjeeva Raj in 1966 from Tambaram. The present record is, therefore, a range extension.

Other amphibian species observed at Point Calimere were:

1. *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*: Common, seen on the banks of temporary rainwater pools at night.

2. *Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis*: Common, mostly in rainwater pools. Most of them were heard calling at night. They were also seen in Muniappan, a large freshwater lake in this area.

3. *Tomopterna breviceps*: Seen crossing a sandy road in the jungle near Ramarpadam.

4. *Microhyla rubra*: Their calls were heard and the microhylids were seen in the grass near a temporary rainwater pool at the roadside at c.1845 hrs.

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## 22. ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF *ICHTHYOPHIS BOMBAYENSIS* TAYLOR, 1960 (FAMILY ICHTHYOPHIIDAE) IN CENTRAL WESTERN GHATS

*Ichthyophis bombayensis* Taylor 1960 was based on a unique type (BMNH 1888.6.11.2) collected by Gleadow from Surat, Gujarat. Since the original description, this species has been reported from the central Western Ghats

(Balakrishna *et al.* 1982, Krishnamurthy and Katre 1993, Bhatta 1998, Pillai and Ravichandran 1999). However, while dealing with this species, Dutta (1997) has stated that "no other specimen of this species has been